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and UNMC in order to do the very important work that needs to be done with regard to looking at the causes of cancer and also how smoking impacts genetic cancers and also takes a look at, of course, smoking-related diseases. In case the Legislature has forgotten or is not familiar with this, in 1993 the body originally earmarked 2 cents of cigarette tax for cancer research. Another cent is also earmarked currently for cancer research, for a total of 3 cents under the Department of Health Cash Fund. Most people see a direct correlation between smoking and cancer, and the Legislature found that collecting 3 cents from the sale of every pack of cigarettes for cancer research was a good idea. If everybody in this state stopped smoking today, and nobody started smoking from this date onward, we would still need to have very, very, very long time of cancer and smoking-related diseases researched in order to serve the people who are going to develop cancer and who are going to develop diseases as a result of their smoking. We need to do much more research on these...on cancer. We need to do much more research on smoking-related diseases, and that's why I very much support Senator Hilgert's amendment that would provide additional funding for research on the relationship between cigarettes and diseases and cancer. There have been tremendous inroads made by UNMC and Creighton with regard to smoking-related diseases and cancer. We need to try to provide additional funding in order to allow them to continue to do their research and quite possibly attain some real breakthroughs in how do we treat cancer and how do we prevent cancer, and how do we treat smoking-related diseases. There's some very important research being done right now on how smoking relates to osteoporosis, and this of course is something that's near and dear to my heart, because obviously women develop osteoporosis at a much greater rate than men do, and we need to take a look at how it is that we are able to treat women who develop this as a result of, or it's aggravated by a history of smoking. Now, I would suggest that we should raise taxes on cigarettes, period, because I would like to see people take a look at quitting smoking. But absent that, I think it's very important for us to consider raising the amount of funding that goes to these funds by taking some of this money out of the cigarette taxes that are going into the General Fund right now. UNMC and Creighton very effectively uses these funds. Both of these programs have made great strides in cancer research, both of these programs have